



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## WATERFOWL SITUATION SHOWS NO GREAT CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

The situation on waterfowl breeding grounds this year shows no noticeable improvement over last year at this time, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman was advised today by Albert M. Day, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, in a summary report on the spring and summer breeding ground conditions in Canada, Alaska, and the northern United States.

"Over-all production for the Pacific flyway is about the same or slightly less than last year's," said Mr. Day, "but the Central flyway shows a moderate increase. Although a decrease is evident in important areas supplying ducks to the Mississippi flyway, production of waterfowl for the Atlantic flyway is the same or slightly better than last year."

In his statement to the Secretary, Mr. Day pointed out that this year's breeding ground surveys were more extensive and authoritative than ever before. Although the surveys are spark-plugged by the FWS, he said, they are primarily cooperative studies--with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Provincial Game Departments, and the various State Departments of Conservation contributing equipment and personnel.

The surveys include important breeding grounds in Alaska, the arctic and sub-arctic sections of Northwestern Canada, British Columbia, the Prairie and Maritime Provinces of Canada, and most of the northern tier of States from California to Maine. Ducks Unlimited and other private conservation agencies also supplied data on breeding ducks and geese. All in all, said Mr. Day, the cooperativeness of all interested agencies has provided the soundest basis ever for managing the resource.

Spring was late in most breeding grounds in the northern United States and southern Canada. This modified migration and nesting, delaying them in some sections as long as four weeks and causing some waterfowl to set up housekeeping further south than normal. Loss of young in some water areas and destruction of nests on crop and hay lands reduced production appreciably in certain areas but, on the whole, breeding conditions were generally favorable. In Alaska and the Canadian arctic and sub-arctic, an early mild season prevailed in contrast to the late cold spring of last year.

The following are some of the highlights of the situation:

## PACIFIC FLYWAY

Of the breeding grounds which supply most of the birds to the Pacific flyway, only Oregon and British Columbia showed a noticeable increase in breeder potential and production of young. Alaska's production was about the same as that of last year. There was a decrease in Alberta and Washington and the Canadian northwest. There appeared to be no important change in production in Idaho, California, and Montana.

#### CENTRAL FLYWAY

North Dakota and Saskatchewan showed noticeable increases in breeding birds and production. This increase was offset partially by reductions in the Far North and Alberta. Combined with a situation about the same as that of last year in Montana, South Dakota, and Colorado, an improvement in the Central flyway is seen.

#### MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

The situation on breeding grounds supplying the Mississippi flyway was not favorable. Production in Manitoba was noticeably reduced over last year. Combined with the reductions in the Far North, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and with conditions in Minnesota about the same as last year or slightly improved, a reduction is indicated which will not likely be offset by contributions to this flyway from Saskatchewan and North Dakota.

#### ATLANTIC FLYWAY

The Atlantic flyway displays no significant trend up or down. The situation in the northeastern states was about the same as last year's, if not some better. In southeastern Canada conditions were about the same with perhaps some decrease indicated. The over-all situation is comparable to that of the 1949 breeding season.

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